

**European Ophthalmic Pathology Society**

**63rd Annual Meeting**

**June 11 - 14, 2025**

**Basel, Switzerland**

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**Case number: 675/25**

**Material distributed: 1 histological slide**

## **Meningioma in the Orbit**

**Clinical history:** 17 years old boy was sent to the Eye Clinic for gradually progressing left-sided proptosis connected with paralytic strabismus and diplopia. His general medical history is unremarkable. Left-sided proptosis was apparent for the first look, motility of the left eye was very limited in the direction to the right side, with subsequent diplopia. The intraocular findings were quite normal on both eyes, visual acuity 0,9 on the right eye, 0,7 on the left eye. Intraocular pressure was 20 mm/Hg on the right side, 21 mm/Hg on the left side. Despite of proptosis and problems with motility the left eye and entire orbital region looked calm, without inflammatory signs, painless. The findings on the right orbit and right eye were entirely normal. MRI imaging was indicated. It showed the tumor involving medial part of left orbit, left ethmoidal sinuses, upper portion of the left nasal cavity, part of the left frontal sinus and part of the tumor was also intracranial - adhering to left lamina fibrosa of the ethmoidal bone in the anterior fossa of the skull base. The orbital portion of tumor measured 25x10x34mm, it involved upper oblique oculomotor muscle and displaced and compressed medial oculomotor muscle. The intracranial portion of tumor measured 16x12x10mm. Due to easy accessible nasal portion the initial probatory bioptic sample of tumor was taken from nasal cavity. According to initial MRI scan the diagnosis of either lymphoma or sarcoma was clinically considered. Bioptic examination was quite pleasantly surprising and showed meningioma of the meningotheelial type, WHO grade 1. The surgery was then planned as not extensively radical due to benign biological nature of the tumor and it concentrated on the reduction of tumorous mass by removing of the extraorbital portions. The attempt to remove intraorbital portion of tumor would probably result in necessity to remove the eye, otherwise healthy and fully functioning, because of involvement of oculomotor muscles. So, the orbital portion of tumor was not surgically removed and other modalities of its management are still considered. Possibility of partial regression of the orbital portion is considered, and patient is still under follow up. Slight regression of the proptosis is observed after surgery, paralytic strabismus with diplopia (only when looking to the right side) persists, as well as normal intraocular findings.

**Pathology: Gross examination:** initially there was obtained only small probatory sample for the histological diagnosis, measuring 10x4x3mm. After establishing of bioptic diagnosis surgical resection of the tumor was planned and performed. The specimen from this resection consisted of multiple fragments from nasal cavity, ethmoidal

sinus, intracranial part of tumor and adherent small fragments of the orbital portion. The overall volume of resected tissues was about 55x40x20mm. Fragments of bones were involved in the material.

**Light microscopy:** The tumor was composed of polygonal cells with poorly optically defined borders and bland microscopic appearance, without atypia, arranged in varying sized irregular lobules, with only minimal mitotic activity (up to 1 mitosis per 10 high power fields). The tumor filled intertrabecular spaces of the resected bones and grew through the eroded thin osseous barrier, however, necrosis and aggressive osteolysis was not noticed. The microscopic appearance of the tumor was consistent with diagnosis of meningioma, its meningotheelial type.

**Immunohistochemistry** supported this diagnosis by typical positivity for EMA and progesteron receptors. Proliferation marker Ki67 was positive in 5-10% of tumorous cells (in their irregular distribution). Negative results in the tumorous cells were obtained in the examinations for CD34, ERG, GFAP, S100, cytokeratins AE1/3, CK7, CK5,6, p40, p63, chromogranin, synaptophysin and NSE.

**The final bioptic diagnosis was meningioma of the meningotheelial type, WHO grade 1.**

**Discussion and Coment:** Meningioma is the tumor which sometimes occurs in the orbital region, most commonly with origin in the optic nerve sheath which is continuous of meninges, both developmentaly and anatomically. In our case the tumor is not connected with the optic nerve. Optic nerve is not involved in the tumor and the only functional problems of the left eye ball is its displacement and problems with motility caused by oculomotor muscles involvement. It seems very likely in our case that the origin of tumor is intracranial, in the anterior fossa above the lamina cribrosa of the ethmoidal bone. What is very unusual on our case is the extensive extracranial progression of tumor through the skull base to the naso-orbital region, despite the fact that tumor is histologically WHO grade I, which means less aggressive. Also in the histological specimen there are not present necroses and aggressive osteolysis. Unusually prevailing extracranial extension of the tumor was probably enhanced by very thin and cribriform shape of the lamina cribrosa of the ethmoidal bone, which was the osseous structure underlying the place of tumorous origin. What remains matter of questions, discussions and problem is another management of the remaining orbital part of the tumor. It was not surgically removed because of involvement of the oculomotor muscles. So, its surgical removal would probably necessitate the enucleation of the otherwise unaffected and functioning eye ball and partial exenteration of the orbit. Such mutilating surgery was abandoned under the influence of otherwise favourable histological diagnosis. There was decided to follow up carefully another behavior of the tumor with some hope that regression of the orbital part of tumor could be started by its debulking and removal of its other parts, eventually that this regression or at least slowing of its progress could be in future stimulated by carefully targeted and carefully dosed actinotherapy.

#### **Literature:**

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